

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A suture anchoring device comprising:

a first retaining member having ~~a central longitudinal axis~~, a first surface, a second surface and a first outer edge; where the second surface lies in a first plane; the first retaining member having an opening that extends from the first outer edge to an inner point of the first retaining member;

a second retaining member having ~~a central longitudinal axis~~, a third surface, a fourth surface, a fifth surface, a sixth surface and a second outer edge; where the third surface lies in a second plane and the fifth surface and the sixth surface lie nominally perpendicular to the second outer edge at their lines of intersection therewith;

a holding means positioned within the second retaining member, the holding means comprised of an opening extending from the fifth or the sixth surface to within the second retaining member; and

a coupler having a third outer edge and a cross-sectional area taken in a plane parallel to the first plane that is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane; where the coupler is positioned along ~~said central~~ a longitudinal axis of said first retaining member and said second retaining member that is substantially perpendicular to said first and second planes and located at a midpoint of a width of said first and second retaining members and joins the first retaining member to the second retaining member at the second surface and the third surface;

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wherein the second and third surfaces are parallel to each other and non-coterminous and the opening on the first retaining member extends from the first outer edge to the third outer edge of the coupler.

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the holding means opening further comprises an entrance and a rear surface and the width of the entrance is less than the width of the rear surface.

Claim 8 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the coupler is a cylindrical member.

Claim 9 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the coupler is a helical member.

Claim 10 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is larger than the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

Claim 11 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

Claim 12 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first

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plane is substantially the same as the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

Claim 13 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where surfaces and corners are rounded.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A suture anchoring device comprising:

a first retaining member having a first surface, a second surface and a first outer edge; where the second surface lies in a first plane; the first retaining member having an opening that extends from the first outer edge to an inner point of the first retaining member;

a second retaining member having a third surface, a fourth surface, a fifth surface, a sixth surface and a second outer edge; where the third surface lies in a second plane and the fifth surface and the sixth surface lie nominally perpendicular to the second outer edge at their lines of intersection therewith;

a holding means positioned within the second retaining member, the holding means comprised of an opening extending from the fifth or the sixth surface to within the second retaining member; and

a coupler having a third outer edge and a cross-sectional area taken in a plane parallel to the first plane that is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane; where the coupler is positioned along ~~said central~~ a longitudinal axis of said first retaining member and said second retaining member that is substantially perpendicular to said first and second planes and located at a midpoint of a width of said first and second retaining members and joins the first retaining member to the second retaining member at the second surface and the third surface;

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wherein the second and third surfaces are parallel to each other and non-coterminous and the coupler is a cylindrical member.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 15, where the opening on the first retaining member extends from the first outer edge to the third outer edge of the coupler.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 15, where the opening on the first retaining member extends from the second surface to the first surface.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 15, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is larger than the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 15, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 15, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is substantially the same as the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 15, where surfaces and corners are rounded.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A suture anchoring device comprising:

a first retaining member having a first surface, a second surface and a first outer edge; where the second surface lies in a first plane; the first retaining member having an opening that extends from the first outer edge to an inner point of the first retaining member;

a second retaining member having a third surface, a fourth surface, a fifth surface, a sixth surface and a second outer edge; where the third surface lies in a second plane and the fifth surface and the sixth surface lie nominally perpendicular to the second outer edge at their lines of intersection therewith;

a holding means positioned within the second retaining member, the holding means comprised of an opening extending from the fifth or the sixth surface to within the second retaining member; and

a coupler having a third outer edge and a cross-sectional area taken in a plane parallel to the first plane that is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane; where the coupler is positioned along ~~said-central~~ a longitudinal axis of said first retaining member and said second retaining member that is substantially perpendicular to said first and second planes and located at a midpoint of a width of said first and second retaining members and joins the first retaining member to the second retaining member at the second surface and the third surface;

wherein the second and third surfaces are parallel to each other and non-coterminous and the coupler is a helical member.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 22, where the opening on the first retaining member extends from the first outer edge to the third outer edge of the coupler.

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Claim 24 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 22, where the opening on the first retaining member extends from the second surface to the first surface.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 22, where the holding means opening further comprises an entrance and a rear surface and the width of the entrance is less than the width of the rear surface.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The suture anchoring device of claim 22, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

Claim 27 (New): A suture anchoring device comprising:

- a first retaining member having a first surface, a second surface and a first outer edge; where the second surface lies in a first plane; the first retaining member having an opening for receiving a suture that extends from the first outer edge to an inner point of the first retaining member;

- a second retaining member having a third surface, a fourth surface, a fifth surface, a sixth surface and a second outer edge; where the third surface lies in a second plane and the fifth surface and the sixth surface lie nominally perpendicular to the second outer edge at their lines of intersection therewith;

- a holding means for receiving a suture positioned within the second retaining member, the holding means comprised of an opening extending from the fifth or the sixth surface to within the second retaining member; and

- a coupler having a third outer edge for providing a winding surface for a suture and a cross-sectional area taken in a plane parallel to the first plane that is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane; where the coupler is positioned along a

longitudinal axis of said first retaining member and said second retaining member that is substantially perpendicular to said first and second planes and located at a midpoint of a width of said first and second retaining members and joins the first retaining member to the second retaining member at the second surface and the third surface;

wherein the second and third surfaces are parallel to each other and non-coterminous and the opening on the first retaining member extends from the first outer edge to the third outer edge of the coupler, and

wherein said suture-receiving opening, holding means, and suture winding surface of said coupler provide a frictional hold for a suture.

Claim 28 (New) The suture anchoring device of claim 27 wherein the outer edges of said first and second retaining members are substantially annular, and wherein said width corresponds to a diameter of said first and second retaining members.